crowding; except for maniacal patients, these are the conditions that make restraint necessary.

(A Marginal, Defensive World)

The proximity of institutions like Central Prison and the Mercer Reformatory must have helped to make the atmosphere of life at the Asylum for the Insane quite rough if not downright brutalizing. Something of the milieu, an overlapping of equally marginal domains and jurisdictions, emerges from juxtapositions in the pages of Clark's Diary. At virtually the same time he reports being called upon to "to give evidence as to the condition of insane criminals, who were sent here from the Central Prison" (367), on the national level he is dealing with the politics of the insanity defence in Louis Riel's trial for treason. On July 18, 1885 he received the "telegram from Dr. Roy ["superintendent of Beauport Asylum" ?] asking me to go with [illegible] Reil, the North West rebel at Regina, Manitoba where he is imprisoned for trial." He rather cynically anticipates what he has to do: "I presume the insanity-plea is to be set-up" (361). Meanwhile, on July 23 the city celebrates Riel's defeat: "A number of the volunteers from the North West going to their respective homes have been passing through this city. The Queen's Own + Grenadiers are expected in the city today. All main streets are decorated" (363). On July 25, 1885, Dr. Clark starts "for Regina in company with Dr. Roy, Medical Superintendent Beauport Asylum Quebec, to examine Louis Reil [sic], the rebel at Regina, as to his sanity. It is a journey of about 600 miles from Toronto" (363). It is a closed, repressive world, that Clark occupies the margins of. It is not surprising that he is unable to save Riel with his plea.[lxii]

Occasionally we see Clark's marginal world successfully defending itself, as it does on December 12, 1882, against an Australian alienist named Tucker who had visited and sharply criticized a number of North American asylums. Clark fires off a "Circular" to Superintendents all over the continent. Addressed "My dear Doctor," it warns his colleagues of one Dr. Tucker, Superintendent of a "Licensed House" for the Insane near Sydney, New South Wales.

Clark implies that Tucker has developed a "strategy" to destroy the reputations of insane asylums all over the western United States and Canada. After visiting each one he gives an account of it to the local newspaper reporter